

Be Prepared NEWTOWN

Are you Prepared?

Hurricane season officially began June 1st and goes until November 30th. Although our local experience has given us our most severe storms later in the summer and even the fall – we know severe weather conditions don't really follow the calendar. There are very few weeks when we shouldn't already be on our toes for snow, freezing temps, heavy rains, high winds, lightning, and even high heat. **NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE.**

Your Emergency Management Team urges residents to seriously take inventory of their preparedness, both their plans and their supplies. After reviewing their status, residents should make appropriate preparations to ensure personal safety and readiness, and that includes provisions to protect pets.

Be Informed. It is critically important to be informed, and how people seek information can vary greatly. After-action review of nearly every exercise and real-world event has identified communication as an area needing improvement or expansion. Deputy EMD Maureen Will, who is also Director of Newtown's Emergency Communications Center, drives home the message to all residents, "Please, sign up to receive communication from the Town of Newtown". The best decisions are informed decisions.

- Register with **CodeRED** so you can receive CodeRED alerts that are provided by the Town and include your cell phone number so you may receive the messages. Code Red – register at www.newtown-ct.gov or call 203-270-4370 for assistance;
- Subscribe to **News and Announcements** so you can receive info that is sent out to the community from the First Selectmen's office. Sign up on the Town website: www.newtown-ct.gov
- Monitor the **Newtown Bee** on-line, Facebook and Twitter along with any other local media that you normally get your information to stay up-to-date about impending weather or other emergencies. The Bee staff closely monitor the Town's actions during emergencies to then help inform the public.
- **Important Links for YOU**
 - [Have a disaster plan for your whole household](#)
 - [Be prepared for power outages](#)
 - CT Prepares Links
 - [Download for Apple IOS](#) / [Download for Android](#)

Consider Health and Medical Needs

Many residents live successfully and independently with challenging health conditions and medical needs by understanding what it takes to manage them. Severe conditions

and/or power outage can dramatically interfere with that success. It is important for individuals who have such needs to plan for emergencies. Those residents and their families should review what will be the continuity of care from existing professional assistance, whether it be the supply of medications, home delivery of essential supplies such as oxygen and/or durable medical equipment, and other specific needs. Have an up-to-date list of your prescription and non-prescription medications.

Important numbers and contact information that should be kept handy:

- **Life Safety Emergency – call 911**
- To report a power outage – call Eversource 800-286-2000

The Municipal Center at Fairfield Hills

- First Selectman's office Tel (203) 270-4201
- Emergency Management/Fire Marshal Tel (203) 270-4370
- Health District Tel (203) 270-4291.

Preparedness is everyone's responsibility. The Town works to minimize effects of disasters through comprehensive mitigation, planning, training and response. Residents need to do their part, as they have the best understanding of their own property, personal physical, emotional and medical circumstances

PROPERTY CONSIDERATIONS:

Secure property - Survey property and look for potential physical hazards. When a storm is forecasted, bring outdoor furniture, decorations, signs, garbage cans inside; trim trees/branches; clear clogged gutters and yard drains.

Generators – Permanent generators should be installed by a licensed professional and with a permit issued by the Building Department. Portable generators are useful but can be hazardous. They should only be used outdoors and away from doors, windows and vents; NEVER use in homes, garages, basements, crawl spaces or partially enclosed spaces even with ventilation. Be sure to operate in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.